19th May 1954]

SRI S. C. C. ANTONY PILLAI :—" May I know why there should be any difference in the concessions granted to these people? Some are granted half-fee concessions and others are granted full-fee concessions. Secondly, may I know whether this rule applies to converts from the Harijan community to any other religion also or only to Christianity? If it does not apply, why such a distinction is made?"

THE HON. SRI B. PARAMESWARAN :—" Moplahs of Malabar district are also classified under backward classes. As I said, there is only a very slight difference. I do not know why hon. Members should be harping on this point. If they come to my room, I can explain to them that there is practically no difference whatsoever in the concessions that the Government give."

Development of the Siddha System of Indian Medicine.

* 981 *Q.*—SRI K. V. RAMASWAMI (on behalf of Sri C. Kandasamy) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Health be pleased to state the efforts made by the Government to develop or to resuscitate the Siddha System of Indian Medicine?

THE HON. SRI A. B. SHETTY :—" The Siddha System of medicine is receiving due consideration from Government just as the other indigenous systems are viz., Ayurveda and Unani. The Siddha System of medicine is being taught in the College of Indigenous Medicine. Treatment in the Siddha System is given to the patients in the Government Hospital of Indigenous Medicine at Madras. Text-books on Siddha System have been written and printed at Government expense. The Government permit the local bodies to run institutions in this system of medicine. They also give maintenance grants in respect of medical institutions of Indigenous Medicine (including Siddha) run by private people, wherever necessary."

Expenditure incurred on the Soviet Cultural Delegation to Madras.

* 982 *Q.*—SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total amount spent in connexion with the recent visit of the Soviet Cultural Delegation to Madras; and

(*b*) whether this amount has been spent by the Government of India, or by the State Government and if by both, what part by each?

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) No information as to the total amount spent in connexion with the visit of Soviet Cultural Delegation to Madras between the 13th and the 20th of February 1954, is available, as they were the guests of the Government of India throughout their stay in India.

An expenditure of Rs. 284–4–0 was, however, incurred by the Madras State as detailed below :—

(1) Rupees 40 being the cost of cool drinks, etc., provided at Mahabalipuram.

(2) Rupees 65–12–0 being the difference between the normal rate of hire charges of the Government bus, i.e., Rupees 365–12–0 and Rs. 300 the concessional rate at which the bus was given.

(3) Rupees 178–8–0 being the charges for printing tickets at Government Press which was waived as a special case.''

9-10 p.m. SRI V. BALAKRISHNAN :—'' Sir, who was the officer incharge of the arrangements here in the Madras City and is it a fact that that Officer threw an iron curtain around the delegation preventing popular access and provided access to the delegation only to his kith and kin, such as daughter, daughter-in-law, sister, sister-in-law, brother, brother-in-law and so forth? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' I do not have any information here with me. If the hon. Member knows the name of the officer, he may give it to me.''

SRI M. KALYANASUNDRAM :—'' கனம் சபாநாயகர் அவர்களே சோவியத் யூனியன் கலா கோஷடி இந்திய சர்க்காரின் வேண்டுகோள் பேரில்தானே இங்கே விஜயம் செய்தது ? பிரதம மந்திரியின் நிதிக்காகத் தானே அவர்கள் பணம் வசூல் செய்தார்கள்? ஆகவே அவர்கள் சர்க்காருக்கு எவ்வளவு பணம் வசூல் செய்து தந்தார்கள் என்பதையாவது சொல்வார்களா ? ''

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—'' Sir, I thought that the Soviet Cultural Delegation came here for cultural contact and not for earning for any purpose. The other thing was quite incidental; that is all.''

Assistance to handloom industry.

* 983 *Q*.—SRI S. RADHAKRISHNAN : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the State Government received any directive from the Union Government regarding—

(i) abolition of sales tax on handloom goods;

(ii) giving assistance to handloom industry and handloom workers; and

(iii) giving any kind of rebate for the purchase of handloom cloth; and

(*b*) if so, the State Government's action in the matter?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—'' (*a*) No directives have been received from the Government of India. They requested this Government to abolish the sales tax on handloom cloth. A sum of Rs. 98,38,677 has been allotted to this State by the Central Government, out of the Mill Cloth Cess